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PP RUEHBZ RUEH DU RUEHMR RUEHPA RUEHRN RUEHTRO
DE RUEHUJA #2077 3211827
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P 171827Z NOV 09
FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7503
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0617
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0474
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0443
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS PRIORITY 2304
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABUJA 002077

SIPDIS

AF/FO, AF/W, AF/RSA, DRL, INR/AA, INL/AEE;
ADDIS ABABA FOR MISSION TO AU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/14/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: ABUBAKAR HEADED TO NIGER FOR TALKS WITH TANDJA

REF: A. ABUJA 2062

[1](#)B. ABUJA 2076

Classified By: Acting DCM James P. McAnulty
for reasons in Sections 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Peace and Security Commissioner Colonel Mahamane Toure told Acting DCM and PolMilOff November 17 that ECOWAS-appointed Mediator Abdulsalami Abubakar would travel to Niamey the following day for negotiations with Niger President Mamadou Tandja. According to Toure, Abubakar told him that his most difficult challenge would be to find common ground on Niger's constitution. Toure remarked that both Abubakar and Tandja have been close friends for some time, and that they both speak Hausa, which has helped during prior meetings.

[1](#)2. (C) Toure said Abubakar appointed two additional people to assist him in negotiations: former Ghana Armed Forces Defense Staff Chief Lieutenant General Seth Kofi Obeng and Malian Sierra Diop, "a person whom Tandja respects."

[1](#)3. (U) On a separate but possibly related issue, a Canadian diplomat told PolMilOff November 16 that BBC Hausa reported that Nigeria is cutting the supply of electricity to Niger for six hours each day.

SANDERS